



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

Press office: +389 (0)2 310-2314

Email: [bvelickovska@usaid.gov](mailto:bvelickovska@usaid.gov)

## PRESS RELEASE

### **USAID Helps Macedonia Create a Better Business Environment**

Over the last four years, the USAID Business Environment Activity (BEA) has supported Macedonia's efforts to develop a better business climate by enhancing the collaboration between the public and private sectors in order to create a more competitive future for Macedonia's economy.

"The project worked to develop more efficient economic policies through a well-conducted public-private dialogue" said USAID Mission Director Michael Fritz at BEA's close-out ceremony. "USAID supported trade facilitation, export promotion and development of non-bank financial products. BEA pioneered public-private partnerships and helped lessen the regulatory burden on doing business. As a result, companies today have a better sense of how to compete on the domestic and international market and to benefit from trade liberalization," he added.

The project promoted the introduction of new products in the non-bank financial market, built institutional capacities to formulate economic policies which encourage entrepreneurship, introduced good corporate governance practices and corporate social responsibility, and promoted active measures to help reduce unemployment in the country.

USAID will continue to support Macedonia's economic reforms through other programs that will work to further improve the business environment, enhance private sector competitiveness and strengthen the overall economy.

#### **NOTE TO EDITORS:**

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.